

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of March 17, 2008 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 1-16 have been cancelled, and new claims 17-28 have been added and are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Tsujimoto et al. (US 7,063,768). For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his courtesy in granting and conducting the telephone interview of May 13, 2008, during which the rejections contained in the Office Action were discussed. The Examiner noted in the interview that independent claim 1 was generally very broad, and suggested that the independent claim be drafted more narrowly in view of the applied prior art. In this regard, it is noted that independent claim 1 has been cancelled and re-drafted as new independent claim 17.

Independent claim 17 recites a method of manufacturing a circuit forming board, which includes impregnating an elongated reinforcing member with impregnation material, with the reinforcing member extending in a first direction, and transferring the reinforcing member in a second direction such that the first direction of the reinforcing member is parallel to the second direction. Claim 17 also recites that the impregnating of the elongated reinforcing member with impregnation material occurs simultaneously with the transferring of the reinforcing member in the second direction. In addition, the method of claim 17 includes adhering films directly onto an upper surface and a lower surface, respectively, of the reinforcing member so as to be entirely peelable off of the upper and lower surfaces of the reinforcing member, and transferring the reinforcing member in a third direction orthogonal to the first direction of the reinforcing member. Claim 17 also recites that the adhering of the films directly onto the upper surface and the lower surface, respectively, of the reinforcing member occurs simultaneously with the transferring of the reinforcing member in the third direction orthogonal to the first direction of the reinforcing member.

The Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA), as shown in Figs. 6 and 7 of the present application, discloses a glass cloth 11 having a side extending in a first direction 202 and being moved in a direction 201 parallel to the first direction 202. Films 14 are then applied to the sheet as the sheet is moved in the direction 201 parallel to the first direction 202. Thus, as noted by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action, the AAPA does not disclose *transferring the reinforcing member in a third direction orthogonal to the first direction of the reinforcing member*, as required by independent claim 17. In addition, because the AAPA does not disclose transferring the reinforcing member in a third direction orthogonal to the first direction, the AAPA also does not disclose that *the adhering of the films directly onto the upper surface and the lower surface, respectively, of the reinforcing member occurs simultaneously with the transferring of the reinforcing member in the third direction orthogonal to the first direction of the reinforcing member*, as required by independent claim 17.

Tsujimoto discloses a method for producing a laminated composite which, as shown in Fig. 22, includes a longitudinal sheet S1 which is bonded to a core material C by thermocompression bonding to form an intermediate lamination which is cut into pieces L1. The cut pieces L1 are rotated 90°, and a lateral sheet S2 is bonded to the pieces L1 to form a final lamination L2. Based on the disclosure of Tsujimoto, the Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the AAPA by utilizing the transferring of the pieces L1 in a direction orthogonal to the first direction to obtain a circuit board having good thickness precision, as stated on pages 3-4 of the Office Action.

However, it is noted that Tsujimoto does not disclose transferring the reinforcing member in a third direction orthogonal to the first direction *while simultaneously adhering films directly onto an upper surface and a lower surface, respectively, of the reinforcing member so as to be entirely peelable off of the upper and lower surfaces of the reinforcing member*, as required by independent claim 17. Rather, as shown in Figs. 21 and 22, Tsujimoto discloses bonding a longitudinal sheet S1 on an upper surface of the core material C, rotating the pieces L1 90°, and then bonding a lateral sheet S2 on the longitudinal sheet S1. In other words, Tsujimoto discloses bonding a sheet S1 onto the upper surface of the core material C, rotating the core material, and then indirectly bonding a second sheet (S2) onto the upper surface of the core material. Thus, Tsujimoto does not disclose that the transferring the reinforcing member in a third direction

orthogonal to the first direction occurs simultaneously with adhering films directly onto an upper surface and a lower surface, respectively, of the reinforcing member, as required by independent claim 17.

Further, it is noted that Tsujimoto is directed to a method of producing a laminated composite which is used as a civil engineering and construction material, and in particular, as a tatami mat core material for the floor of a house. The sheets S1 and S2 serve as the face material on the surface of the core material, as shown in Fig. 4. As stated in column 2, lines 50-58, the face material is composed of the longitudinal sheets S1 and the lateral sheets S2 in an orthogonal form in order to cancel anisotropy in the longitudinal and lateral directions. However, as stated above, independent claim 17 recites adhering films directly onto an upper surface and a lower surface, respectively, of the reinforcing member *so as to be entirely peelable off of the upper and lower surfaces of the reinforcing member*. As described above, Tsujimoto discloses that the sheets S1 and S2 are thermocompressed onto the core material and are necessary to eliminate the anisotropy of the composite structure. Therefore, Tsujimoto teaches away from the sheets S1 and S2 being arranged to be entirely peelable off of the surface of the reinforcing member, because doing so would make the invention of Tsujimoto unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, and therefore one of ordinary skill in the art would not have had a reason to transfer the sheet of AAPA in a third direction orthogonal to the first direction based on Tsujimoto.

Therefore, for the reasons presented above, it is believed apparent that the present invention as recited in independent claim 17 is not disclosed or suggested by the AAPA and the Tsujimoto reference taken either individually or in combination. Accordingly, a person having ordinary skill in the art would clearly not have modified the AAPA in view of the Tsujimoto reference in such a manner as to result in or otherwise render obvious the present invention of independent claim 17.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 17, as well as claims 18-28 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining

which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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